
FREIGHT RATES ON CANNED FOODS

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION, TRANSMITTING, IN RESPONSE TO SENATE RESOLUTION 314, A STATEMENT SHOWING THE PRESENT AND PROPOSED INCREASED RATINGS ON CERTAIN CANNED FOODS, TOGETHER WITH THE APPROXIMATE PERCENTAGES OF INCREASE WHICH WOULD RESULT FROM THE PROPOSED CHANGES

FEBRUARY 3 (calendar day, FEBRUARY 4), 1925.—Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION,
Washington, February 3, 1925.

SIR: In compliance with the provisions of Senate Resolution 314, dated January 26, 1925, the Interstate Commerce Commission has the honor to transmit herewith a statement showing the present and proposed increased ratings on certain canned foods named in the resolution, together with the approximate percentages of increase which would result from the proposed changes.

Respectfully submitted.

CLYDE B. ATCHISON,
Chairman.

To the PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

REPORT OF THE INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION TO THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES IN RESPONSE TO SENATE RESOLUTION 314

FEBRUARY 2, 1925.

By Senate Resolution 314, dated January 26, 1925, the Interstate Commerce Commission was directed to furnish the Senate a statement showing: (a) The existing classification ratings on canned fish, fruits, meats, mincemeat, and jams, jellies, and preserves, in metal cans, in barrels, boxes, or crates; (b) the increased ratings on these articles proposed by railroads in official classification territory;

and (c) the percentage increases which the advanced classification would mean in the freight rates applicable on these canned-food products.

The following table indicates the present and proposed classification ratings on the commodities named in less than carloads and the approximate percentages of increase which would result should the proposed ratings become effective:

Commodity	Rating		Approximate percentage of increase
	Present	Proposed	
Fish, other than fresh:			
Shellfish, cooked, pickled, or preserved, not otherwise indexed by name			
In metal cans in crates.....	3	R. 25	8.9
In metal cans in barrels or boxes.....	R. 26	3	25
Fish, other than fresh and other than shellfish:			
Cooked, pickled, or preserved, dried, dry salted, or smoked—			
In metal cans in crates.....	3	R. 25	8.9
In metal cans in barrels or boxes.....	R. 26	3	25
Fruit, other than dried, evaporated, or fresh:			
Canned or preserved, including fruit butter, crushed fruit, fruit jam, fruit jelly, and fruit pulp—			
In metal cans in crates.....	3	R. 25	8.9
In metal cans in barrels or boxes.....	R. 26	3	25
Jams, jellies, or preserves, edible, not otherwise indexed by name (including principally corn sirup jelly):			
In metal cans in crates.....	3	R. 25	8.9
In metal cans in barrels or boxes.....	R. 26	3	25
Meats, cooked, cured, or preserved:			
With or without vegetable ingredients, not otherwise indexed by name—			
In metal cans in crates.....	3	R. 25	8.9
In metal cans in barrels or boxes.....	R. 26	3	25
Mincemeat:			
In metal cans in crates.....	3	R. 25	8.9

All of the proposed changes relate to less-than-carload shipments, no change being proposed in the carload ratings. The abbreviations R. 25 and R. 26, respectively, relate to rule 25 and rule 26, the rates under the former being 15 per cent below second class but not lower than third class, and under the latter 20 per cent below third class but not lower than fourth class.

Briefly stated, the proposed changes would result in increases from third class to rule 25, when the articles named are shipped in crates, and from rule 26 to third class when shipped in barrels or boxes. The change from third class to rule 25 is approximately an increase of 8.9 per cent and that from rule 26 to third class, 25 per cent.

The proposed ratings on canned foods in metal cans arise out of the commission's decision in *Indian Packing Corp. v. Director General* (93 I. C. C. 400). In that proceeding complainant attacked the ratings on certain canned foods in glass as unreasonable to the extent that they exceeded the ratings on the same commodities in metal cans. The ratings are generally rule 26 in metal cans and first or second class in glass. In that case the commission found that the ratings on certain canned foods, when in glass, packed in barrels or boxes, should not exceed by more than one numbered class the ratings on the same articles, when in metal cans, in barrels or boxes, but the commission expressed no opinion upon the question of whether or not compliance with this finding should be effected entirely by reductions.

By schedules filed to become effective January 30, 1925, the carriers propose to revise their classification so as to make the ratings on the articles in glass the next numbered class above the ratings on the same commodities in metal cans. The revision includes also reductions in the ratings on the articles in glass. Responsive to protests from numerous shippers of canned foods in metal cans, the schedules have been suspended until May 30, 1925, and have been made the subject of Investigation and Suspension Docket No. 2324, Classification Ratings on Canned Goods in Official Territory. This case has been set for hearing February 25, 1925, for the purpose of determining whether or not the increased ratings are justified.



